

Career Clusters Activity

Can be used with any career cluster configuration.

Use one flipchart page for each career cluster. Print the name of the career cluster on top, then visually divide the page into three sections. Label the three sections as follows:

Entry Level (no experience, on-the-job training)

Skilled (training and/or experience)

Professional (4 - year degree)

Hang these flipchart pages around the room. An example follows:

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>BUSINESS/MARKETING</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Entry Level (no experience, on-the-job training)</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Skilled (training and/or experience)</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Professional (4-year degree)</p>
--

Distribute pages of want ads from your newspaper to small groups of students. Give each group a packet of post-its. Give these directions:

“Study your want ads. For each job advertised in your want ads, write the name of the job on one post-it. Also write the salary for that job, if it is listed. If you have never heard of the job put an asterisk (*) on the post-it. Complete one post-it for each job.

When you have completed one post-it for each job, divide the stack among yourselves and head for the flipcharts! Stick the post-it on the appropriate career cluster, and according to the skill level requirements. You may have to re-read the ad in order to make this determination.”

At the completion of the task ask the group the following types of questions:

What did you notice about the jobs you looked at?

What do you notice as you look around the room at all the flipchart pages?

What is the apparent relationship between training and wage rate?

How many jobs have you never heard of?

Is there a preponderance of jobs in one career cluster?

Activity Hints:

Use only one complete set of want ads from your newspaper making sure that none of the small groups overlap in their want ads. At the completion of the activity you will be able to draw some conclusions about the job market in your community by studying the charts.

If you live in a small town, use the ads from the largest town nearby. Or get the want ads from a large city in another part of the country, or several parts of the country. Talk about regional labor markets, or national labor markets.